

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District

Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Lower Snake River study public meetings scheduled

Walla Walla, Wash. -- Public meetings for the draft of the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement are currently under way throughout the region.

Together with the Corps' presentation of the Draft FR/EIS for improving salmon migration on the lower Snake River, the Federal Caucus will be presenting the "Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish All-H Paper." All of the meetings will include an open house, presentation, and a question and answer session.

"The Corps' EIS and the Federal Caucus' 'All-H Paper' are moving towards a comprehensive regional plan for saving salmon and other fish species in the Columbia River Basin. The issues addressed in these meetings are complex and far-reaching, and involve the tribes, state, local and federal agencies, industries, and the public. We need the region to review these documents and participate in discussions as we move towards decisions," said Brig. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Northwestern Division Commander.

The public will have an opportunity to make written and oral comments on the Corps' Draft Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement and the Federal Caucus All-H paper at the meetings.

Public comments will be limited to three minutes in length and individuals must sign up in advance at the meetings. Anyone may also submit written comments. Meeting attendees will have an opportunity to speak to federal representatives at an open house that will be held concurrently with the meetings.

The Corps' draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement was released in December 1999 and focuses on ways to modify the four lower Snake River dams to improve migration conditions for juvenile salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The Federal Caucus Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish All-H Paper examines opportunities for recovering listed salmon, steelhead and resident fish in four areas: habitat, hatcheries, harvest and hydropower.

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Public Meetings/2-2-2

Members of the Federal Caucus include the Corps, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

For more information on the Corps' Lower Snake River FR/EIS visit www.nww.usace.army.mil. More information on the Federal Caucus is available at: www.bpa.gov/federalcaucus.

- Portland, Ore., Feb. 3. Holiday Inn at the Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, 12 noon,
- Astoria, Ore., Feb. 15, Clatsop County Fair Grounds, 92937 Walluski Loop, 5 p.m.

Washington

- Spokane, Feb. 8, DoubleTree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls, 12 noon.
- Pasco, Feb. 17, DoubleTree Hotel, 2525 North 20th Avenue, 12 noon.
- Seattle, Feb. 29, Seattle Center, 200 Thomas Street, 12 noon.

Idaho

- Lewiston, Idaho, Feb. 10, Lewis Clark State College, Williams Conference Center, 9th Avenue and 4th Street, 12
- Boise, Idaho, Feb. 23, Centre on the Grove, 850 West Front Street, 12 noon.
- Idaho Falls, March 7, Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Boulevard, 5 p.m.
- Twin Falls, March 8, Weston Plaza, 1350 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., 5 p.m.

Montana

- Kalispell, March 1, Outlaw Inn, 1701 Highway 93 South, 6 p.m.
- Missoula, March 2, DoubleTree Hotel, 100 Madison, 6 p.m.

Alaska

7:30 p.m.

- Sitka, March 7, Westmark Hotel, 330 Seward Street, 5 p.m.
- Juneau, March 8, Centennial Hall Convention Center, 101 Egan Drive, 5 p.m.

Agenda for the Portland, Spokane, Pasco, Seattle, Lewiston and Boise meetings:

12 Noon Open House

Sign-Up for Afternoon Session of Public Comments

Overview Presentation 1 p.m. 1:30-3 p.m. **Questions and Answers**

Public Comment Session (3 minutes per person) 3-5 p.m. Sign-Up for Evening Session of Public Comments 6 p.m.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Overview Presentation

7:30 p.m. Public Comment Session (3 minutes per person)

Agenda for the Astoria, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Sitka and Juneau meetings:

5 p.m. Open House

Sign-Up for Evening Session of Public Comments 6:30-7:30 p.m. Overview Presentation & Questions and Answers Public Comment Session (3 minutes per person)

Agenda for Kalispell and Missoula meetings:

6 p.m. Open House

Sign-Up for Evening Session of Public Comments

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